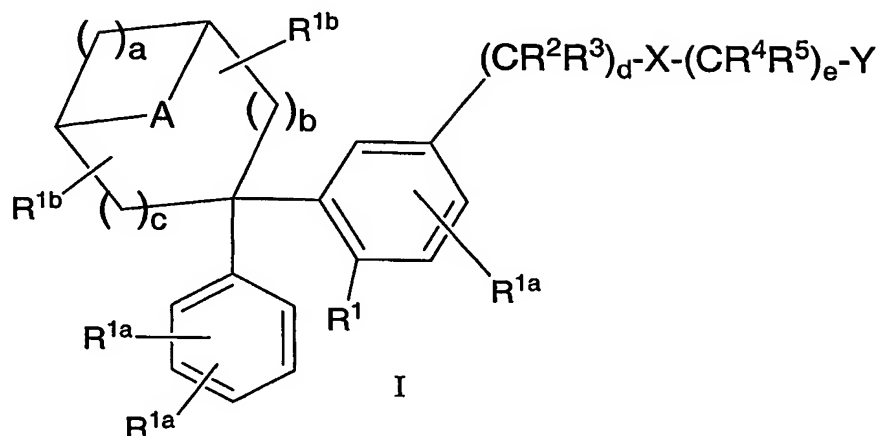


WHAT IS CLAIMED:

1. A compound represented by formula I:



- 5 and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts, esters and solvates thereof wherein:

"a" is an integer selected from 1, 2 and 3; and b and c are each integers independently selected from 0, 1 and 2;

"A" represents a methylene or ethylene group;

- 10 each R^{1a} is independently selected from the group consisting of: -H, -F, -Cl, -Br, -C₁₋₆alkyl, -CN, -OH, -OC₁₋₆ alkyl, -fluoroC₁₋₆ alkyl, -fluoroC₁₋₆ alkoxy, -N(R^a)₂, -C₁₋₆ alkylN(R^a)₂, -NHC(O)C₁₋₄alkyl, -C(O)NHC₁₋₄alkyl and -C(O)N(C₁₋₄alkyl)₂;

each R^{1b} is independently selected from the group consisting of: -H, -F, -C₁₋₆ alkyl, -OH, -OC₁₋₆ alkyl, -fluoroC₁₋₆alkyl, -fluoroC₁₋₆alkoxy, -N(R^a)₂ and -C₁₋₆alkylN(R^a), or one R^{1b} group can represent oxo and the other is as previously defined;

- 15 R¹ represents -H or is selected from the group consisting of:

a) halo, -OH, -CO₂R^a, -C(O)NR^aR^b, -C(O)-Hetcy¹, -N(R^a)₂, -S(O)₂NR^aR^b, -NO₂, -SO₂NR^bC(O)R^a, -NR^bSO₂R^a, -NR^bC(O)R^a, -C(O)SO₂NR^aR^b, -NR^bC(O)NR^aR^b, -NR^bCO₂R^a, -OC(O)NR^aR^b, -C(O)NR^bNR^aR^b, -CN, -S(O)_pR^a and -OSO₂R^a,

- 20 b) -C₁₋₁₀alkyl, -C₂₋₁₀alkenyl, -C₂₋₁₀alkynyl, -OC₁₋₁₀alkyl, -OC₃₋₁₀alkenyl and -OC₃₋₁₀alkynyl, said groups being optionally substituted with: -OH, -CO₂R^a, -C(O)NR^aR^b, -C(O)N(R^a)C₁₋₆alkenyl, -C(O)N(R^a)C₁₋₆alkynyl, -C(O)-Hetcy¹, -N(R^a)₂, -S(O)₂NR^aR^b, -SO₂NR^bC(O)R^a, -NR^bSO₂R^a, -NR^bC(O)R^a, -C(O)SO₂NR^aR^b, -NR^bC(O)NR^aR^b, -NR^bCO₂R^a, -OC(O)NR^aR^b, -C(O)NR^bNR^aR^b, -S(O)_pR^a, Aryl, HAR, -Hetcy¹, and up to 5 fluoro groups, wherein Hetcy¹ is selected from azetidiny, pyrrolidiny, piperidiny, piperaziny, morpholiny and γ-lactam;

c) Aryl or HAR optionally substituted with 1-2 members selected from the group consisting of: -F, -Cl, -Br, -C₁₋₆ alkyl, -CN, -OH, -OC₁₋₆ alkyl, -fluoroC₁₋₆ alkyl, -fluoroC₁₋₆alkoxy, -NH₂, -NHC₁₋₄alkyl, -N(C₁₋₄alkyl)₂, -C₁₋₆alkylNH₂, -C₁₋₆alkyl-NHC₁₋₄alkyl, -C₁₋₆alkylN(C₁₋₄alkyl)₂, -C₁₋₆alkyl-CN, -NHC(O)C₁₋₄alkyl, -C(O)NHC₁₋₄alkyl and -C(O)N(C₁₋₄alkyl)₂;

5 "d" and "e" are each integers independently selected from 0, 1, 2 and 3, such that the sum of d plus e is 1-6;

each p independently represents an integer selected from 0, 1 and 2;

X represents a bond, or is selected from the group consisting of -O-, -S(O)_p- and -NR^a-;

10 R², R³, R⁴ and R⁵ are each independently selected from the group consisting of -H, -C₁₋₆ alkyl, -OC₁₋₆alkyl, -OH, -fluoro, -fluoroC₁₋₆alkyl, -fluoroC₁₋₆alkoxy, -N(R^a)₂, and

0-1 of CR²R³ and 0-1 of CR⁴R⁵ can represent a group selected from carbonyl, thiocarbonyl, C=NR^a and a 3-7 membered cycloalkyl ring,

provided that when X represents -S(O)_p-, and p is 1 or 2, the CR²R³ and CR⁴R⁵ groups adjacent to X represent moieties other than carbonyl, thiocarbonyl and C=NR^a and

15 further provided that when X is -O- or -NR^a-, at least one of CR²R³ and CR⁴R⁵ adjacent to X represents a moiety other than carbonyl, thiocarbonyl and C=NR^a;

Y is selected from the group consisting of Aryl, HAR and Hetcy, wherein each is optionally mono-substituted or di-substituted with R^{1a};

each R^a is independently selected from the group consisting of -H and :

20 (b) -C₁₋₁₀alkyl, -C₃₋₁₀alkenyl, or -C₃₋₁₀alkynyl, optionally substituted with 1-3 fluoro groups or 1-2 members selected from the group consisting of: -OH, -OC₁₋₆alkyl, -CN, -NH₂, -NHC₁₋₄alkyl, and -N(C₁₋₄alkyl)₂;

(b) Aryl or Ar-C₁₋₆alkyl-, the aryl portions being optionally substituted with 1-2 of -C₁₋₆ alkyl, -CN, -OH, -OC₁₋₆ alkyl, -fluoroC₁₋₆ alkyl, -fluoroC₁₋₆alkoxy, -C₁₋₆alkylNH₂, -C₁₋₆alkylNHC₁₋₄alkyl, -C₁₋₆alkylN(C₁₋₄alkyl)₂, -NH₂, -NHC₁₋₄alkyl, -N(C₁₋₄alkyl)₂, -NHC(O)C₁₋₄alkyl, -C(O)NHC₁₋₄alkyl, -C(O)N(C₁₋₄alkyl)₂, -CO₂H and -CO₂C₁₋₆alkyl groups, and 1-3 -F, -Cl or -Br groups; and the alkyl portion of Ar-C₁₋₆alkyl- being optionally substituted with -OH, -OC₁₋₆alkyl, -NH₂, -NHC₁₋₄alkyl, -N(C₁₋₄alkyl)₂, and 1-3 fluoro groups;

30 (c) Hetcy or Hetcy-C₁₋₆alkyl-, each being optionally substituted on carbon with 1-2 members selected from the group consisting of: -F, -OH, -CO₂H, -C₁₋₆alkyl, -CO₂C₁₋₆alkyl, -OC₁₋₆alkyl, -NH₂, -NHC₁₋₄alkyl, -N(C₁₋₄alkyl)₂, -NHC(O)C₁₋₄alkyl, oxo, -C(O)NHC₁₋₄alkyl and -C(O)N(C₁₋₄alkyl)₂; and optionally substituted on nitrogen when present with -C₁₋₆alkyl or -C₁₋₆acyl; and

the alkyl portion of Hetcy-C₁₋₆alkyl- being optionally substituted with 1-2 of: -F, -OH, -OC₁₋₆alkyl, -NH₂, -NHC₁₋₄alkyl and -N(C₁₋₄alkyl)₂;

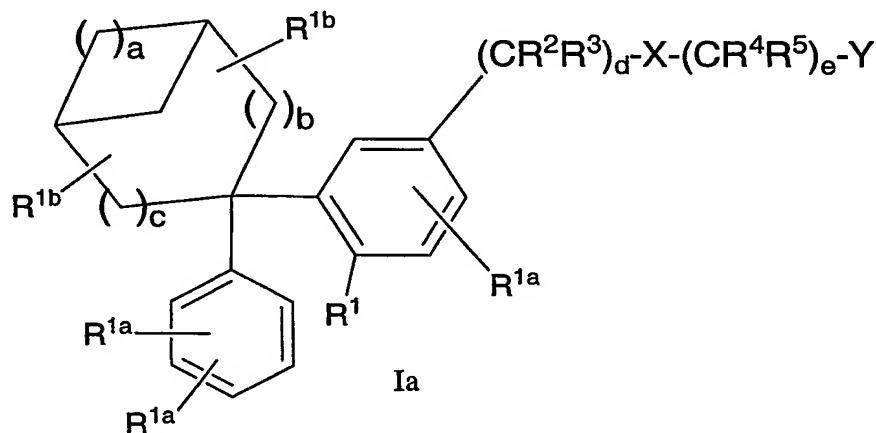
(d) HAR or HAR-C₁₋₆alkyl-, said HAR and HAR portion of HAR-C₁₋₆alkyl- being substituted with 1-2 members selected from the group consisting of: -F, -Cl, -Br, -C₁₋₆alkyl, -CN, -OH, -OC₁₋₆alkyl, -fluoroC₁₋₆alkyl, -fluoroC₁₋₆alkoxy NH₂, -NHC₁₋₄alkyl, -N(C₁₋₄alkyl)₂, -NHC(O)C₁₋₄alkyl, -C(O)NHC₁₋₄alkyl, -C(O)N(C₁₋₄alkyl)₂, -CO₂H, -CO₂C₁₋₆alkyl; and

the alkyl portion of HAR-C₁₋₆alkyl- being optionally substituted with 1-2 of: -F, -OH, -OC₁₋₆alkyl, -NH₂, -NHC₁₋₄alkyl and -N(C₁₋₄alkyl)₂;

each R^b is independently selected from the group consisting of: -H, -NH₂, and -C₁₋₁₀alkyl optionally substituted with members selected from the group consisting of 1-3 fluoro groups and 1-2 of -OH, -OC₁₋₆alkyl, -NH₂, -NHC₁₋₄alkyl and -N(C₁₋₄alkyl)₂;

and when present in the same moiety, (a) R^a and R^b, (b) two R^a groups or (c) two R^b groups can be taken in combination with the atom or atoms to which they are attached and any intervening atoms and represent a 4-7 membered ring containing 0-3 heteroatoms selected from O, S(O)_p and N, and the 4-7 membered ring may be optionally substituted with a member selected from the group consisting of -C₁₋₆alkyl, -C₂₋₆acyl and oxo.

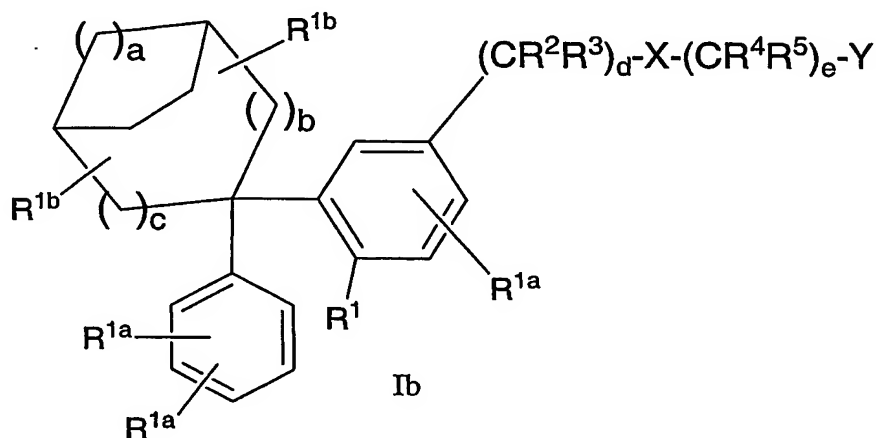
2. The compound of claim 1 having structural formula Ia:



and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts, esters and solvates thereof, wherein "a" is an integer selected from 1, 2 and 3; and b and c are each integers independently selected from 0, 1 and 2; provided that the sum of "a" + b + c is from 1 to 5.

3. The compound of claim 2 wherein "a" is an integer selected from 1 and 2; and one of b and c is 0 (zero) and the other is 1.

4. The compound of claim 1 having structural formula Ib:



and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts, esters and solvates thereof wherein: "a" is an integer selected from 2 and 3; and b and c are integers independently selected from 0 and 1; provided that the sum of "a" + b + c is from 2 to 4.

5. The compound of claim 4 wherein "a" is 2, and b and c are integers selected from 0 and 1.

6. The compound of claim 5 wherein "a" is 2, b is 1 and c is 0 or 1.

7. The compound of claim 1 wherein three R^{1a} groups shown in the generic structural drawing of formula I, represent -H and one R^{1a} group is selected from the group consisting of: -F, -Cl, -C₁₋₆ alkyl, -CN, -OC₁₋₆ alkyl, -fluoroC₁₋₆ alkyl, -fluoroC₁₋₆alkoxy, -N(R^a)₂, -C₁₋₆alkylN(R^a)₂, -NHC(O)C₁₋₄alkyl, -C(O)NHC₁₋₄alkyl and -C(O)N(C₁₋₄alkyl)₂.

8. The compound of claim 1 wherein one R^{1b} represents -H and the other R^{1b} is selected from the group consisting of: -H, -F, -C₁₋₆alkyl, -OH, -OC₁₋₆ alkyl, -fluoroC₁₋₆alkyl, -fluoroC₁₋₆alkoxy, -N(R^a)₂ and -C₁₋₆alkylN(R^a)₂ and oxo.

9. The compound of claim 8 wherein both R^{1b} groups represent -H.

10. The compound of claim 1 wherein R¹ represents a member selected from the group consisting of:

5 a) -C(O)NR^aR^b, -C(O)-Hetcy¹, -N(R^a)₂, -S(O)₂NR^aR^b, -SO₂NR^bC(O)R^a, -NR^bSO₂R^a, -NR^bC(O)R^a, -CN, -S(O)_pR^a and -OSO₂R^a;

b) -C₁₋₁₀alkyl, -C₃₋₆alkenyl, -C₃₋₆alkynyl, -OC₁₋₁₀alkyl, -OC₃₋₆alkenyl and -OC₃₋₁₀alkynyl, said groups being optionally substituted with a member selected from the group consisting of: -CO₂R^a, -C(O)NR^aR^b, -C(O)N(R^a)C₁₋₆alkenyl, -C(O)N(R^a)C₁₋₆alkynyl, -C(O)-Hetcy¹, -N(R^a)₂, -S(O)₂NR^aR^b, -SO₂NR^bC(O)R^a, -NR^bSO₂R^a, NR^bC(O)R^a, -S(O)_pR^a, Aryl, HAR, -Hetcy¹, and up to 5 fluoro groups; and

10 c) HAR optionally substituted with 1-2 members selected from the group consisting of: -F, -Cl, -Br, -C₁₋₆alkyl, -CN, -OH, -OC₁₋₆alkyl, -fluoroC₁₋₆alkyl, -fluoroC₁₋₆alkoxy, -NH₂, -NHC₁₋₄alkyl, -N(C₁₋₄alkyl)₂, -C₁₋₆alkylNH₂, -C₁₋₆alkyl-NHC₁₋₄alkyl, -C₁₋₆alkylN(C₁₋₄alkyl)₂, -C₁₋₆alkyl-CN, -NHC(O)C₁₋₄alkyl, -C(O)NHC₁₋₄alkyl and -C(O)N(C₁₋₄alkyl)₂.

11. The compound of claim 1 wherein d and e are integers independently selected from 0, 1, 2 and 3, provided that the sum of d plus e is 1-3.

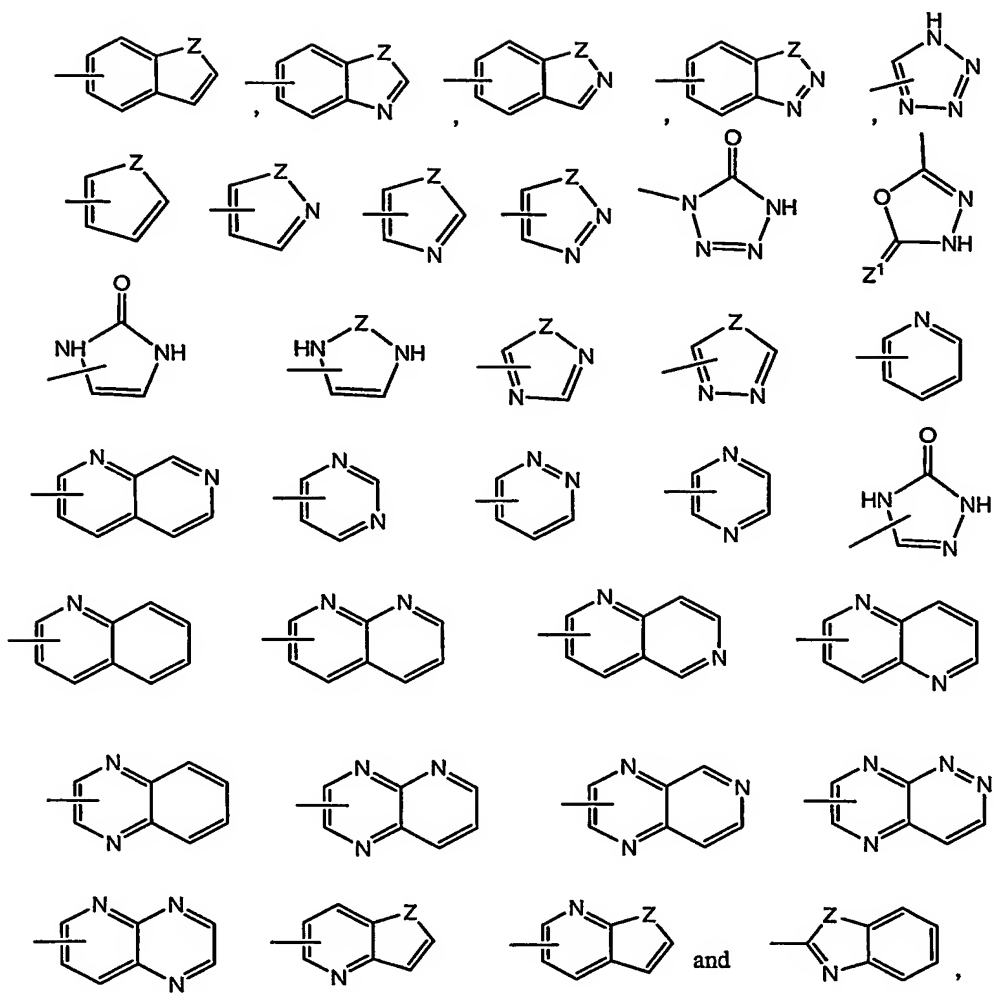
12. The compound of claim 1 wherein X represents a bond, -O- or -S(O)_p-.

13. The compound of claim 1 wherein R², R³, R⁴ and R⁵ are independently selected from the group consisting of -H, -C₁₋₆alkyl, -OC₁₋₆alkyl, -OH, -fluoro, -fluoroC₁₋₆alkyl, -fluoroC₁₋₆alkoxy and -N(R^a)₂.

14. The compound of claim 1 wherein -(CR²R³)_d-X-C(R⁴R⁵)_e- represents a member selected from the group consisting of -O-CH₂- and -CH₂CH₂-.

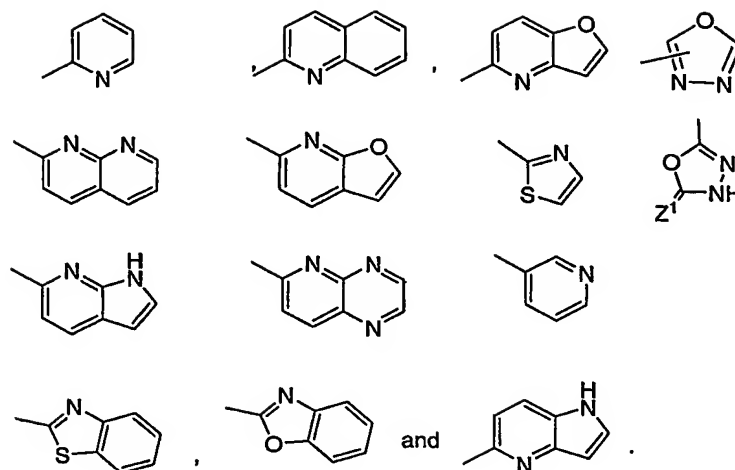
15. The compound of claim 1 wherein Y represents HAR.

16. The compound of claim 15 wherein Y represents HAR selected from the group consisting of:



wherein Z represents O, S or NH; and Z¹ represents O or S.

17. The compound of claim 15 wherein Y is HAR selected from the group consisting of:



18. The compound of claim 1 wherein each R^a is independently selected from the group consisting of -H and:

(a) $-C_{1-4}$ alkyl, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, C_{3-6} alkenyl, C_{3-6} alkynyl, each optionally substituted with 1-3 fluoro groups or a member selected from the group consisting of: $-OC_{1-6}$ alkyl, -CN, $-NH_2$, $-NHC_{1-4}$ alkyl and $-N(C_{1-4}alkyl)_2$;

(b) Aryl or $Ar-C_{1-6}$ alkyl-, the aryl portions being optionally substituted with a member selected from -F, -Cl, $-C_{1-4}$ alkyl, -CN, $-OC_{1-6}$ alkyl, -fluoro C_{1-4} alkyl, -fluoro C_{1-4} alkoxy, $-C_{1-4}alkylNH_2$, $-C_{1-4}alkylNHC_{1-4}alkyl$, $-C_{1-4}alkylN(C_{1-4}alkyl)_2$, $-NH_2$, $-NHC_{1-4}alkyl$, $-N(C_{1-4}alkyl)_2$, $-NHC(O)C_{1-4}alkyl$, $-C(O)NHC_{1-4}alkyl$, $-C(O)N(C_{1-4}alkyl)_2$, $-CO_2H$, and $-CO_2C_{1-6}alkyl$;

and the alkyl portion of $Ar-C_{1-6}alkyl$ - being optionally substituted with -F, $-OC_{1-6}alkyl$, $-NH_2$, $-NHC_{1-4}alkyl$, $-N(C_{1-4}alkyl)_2$;

(c) Hetcy or Hetcy- $C_{1-6}alkyl$ -, each being optionally substituted on carbon with 1-2 members selected from the group consisting of: -F, $-CO_2H$, $-C_{1-6}alkyl$, $-CO_2C_{1-6}alkyl$, $-OC_{1-6}alkyl$, $-NH_2$, $-NHC_{1-4}alkyl$, $-N(C_{1-4}alkyl)_2$, $-NHC(O)C_{1-4}alkyl$, oxo, $-C(O)NHC_{1-4}alkyl$ and $-C(O)N(C_{1-4}alkyl)_2$; and on nitrogen, when present, with $-C_{1-6}alkyl$ or $-C_{1-6}acyl$; and

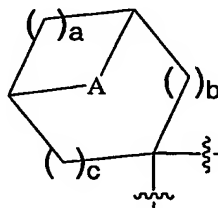
the alkyl portion of Hetcy- $C_{1-6}alkyl$ - being optionally substituted with -F, $-OC_{1-6}alkyl$, $-NH_2$, $-NHC_{1-4}alkyl$ and $-N(C_{1-4}alkyl)_2$;

(d) HAR or HAR- $C_{1-6}alkyl$ -, said HAR and HAR portion of HAR- $C_{1-6}alkyl$ - optionally substituted with -F, -Cl, -Br, $-C_{1-6}alkyl$, -CN, $-OC_{1-6}alkyl$, -fluoro $C_{1-6}alkyl$, -fluoro $C_{1-6}alkoxyNH_2$, $-NHC_{1-4}alkyl$, $-N(C_{1-4}alkyl)_2$, $-NHC(O)C_{1-4}alkyl$, $-C(O)NHC_{1-4}alkyl$, $-C(O)N(C_{1-4}alkyl)_2$, $-CO_2H$, $-CO_2C_{1-6}alkyl$; and

the alkyl portion of HAR-C₁₋₆alkyl- being optionally substituted with -F, -OC₁₋₆alkyl, -NH₂, -NHC₁₋₄alkyl and -N(C₁₋₄alkyl)₂.

19. The compound of claim 1 wherein each R^b is selected from the group consisting of -H and -C₁₋₁₀alkyl optionally substituted with 1-3 fluoro groups.

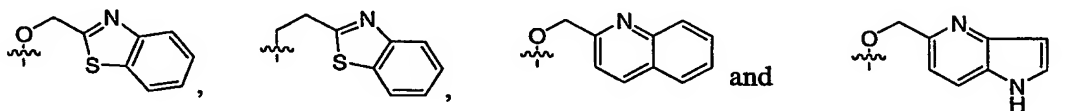
20. The compound of claim 1 wherein:



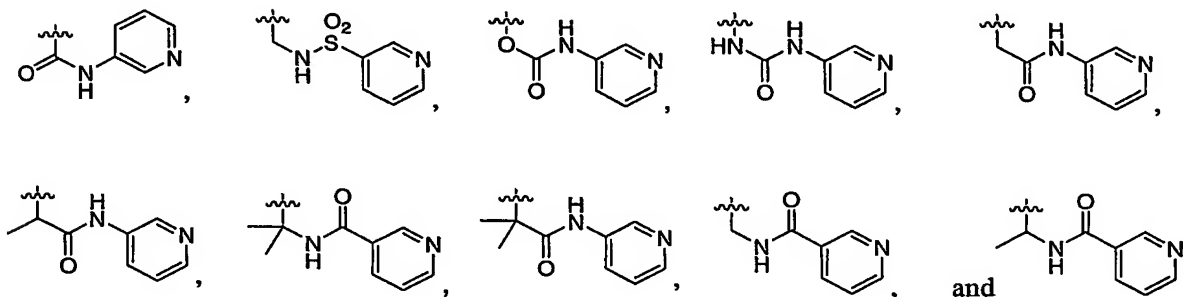
10 is selected from the group consisting of:



-(CR²R³)_d-X-(CR⁴R⁵)_e-Y-(R^{1a})₂ is selected from the group consisting of:



and R¹ is selected from the group consisting of:



R¹ is selected from the group consisting of:

a) -OC(O)NR^aR^b, and -C(O)NR^aR^b;

b) C₁₋₃alkyl substituted with a member selected from: -C(O)-NR^aR^b and -C(O)-Hetcy¹;

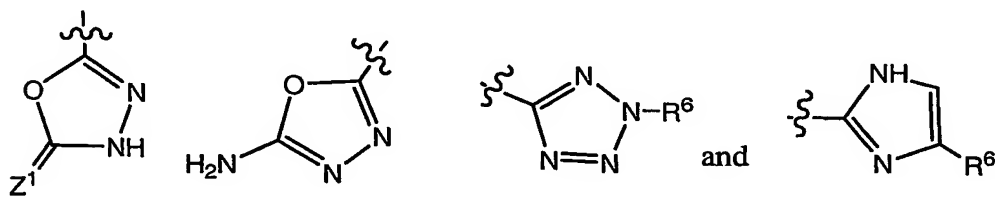
and c) HAR optionally substituted with 1-2 members selected from the group consisting

of: -F, -Cl, -C₁₋₆alkyl, -CN, -OH, -OC₁₋₆alkyl, -fluoroC₁₋₆alkyl, -fluoroC₁₋₆alkoxy, -NH₂, -NHC₁₋₄alkyl, -N(C₁₋₄alkyl)₂, -C₁₋₆alkylNH₂, -C₁₋₆alkyl-NHC₁₋₄alkyl, -C₁₋₆alkylN(C₁₋₄alkyl)₂, -C₁₋₆alkyl-CN, -NHC(O)C₁₋₄alkyl, -C(O)NHC₁₋₄alkyl and -C(O)N(C₁₋₄alkyl)₂.

22. The compound of claim 21 wherein: Y is selected from the group consisting of



when R¹ is HAR, HAR is selected from:

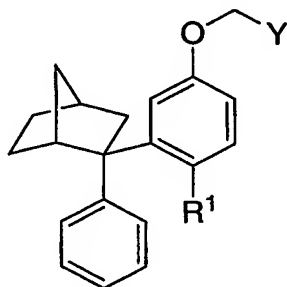


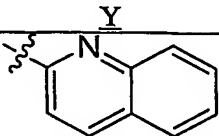
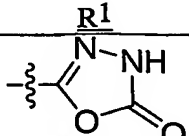
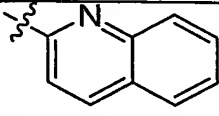
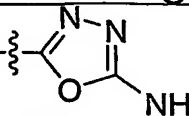
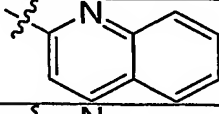
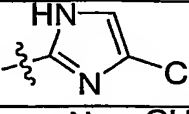
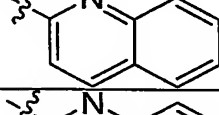
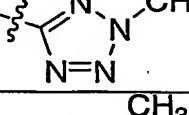
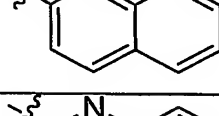
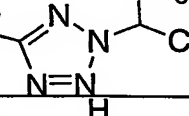
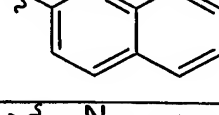
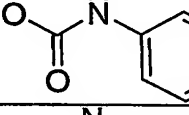
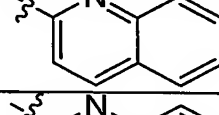
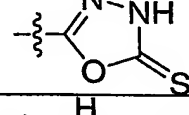
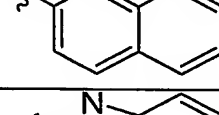
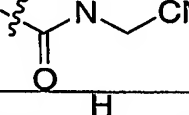
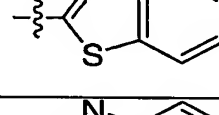
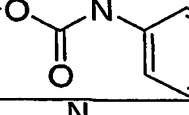
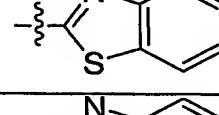
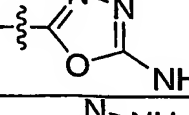
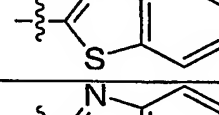
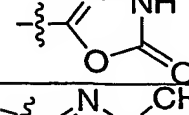
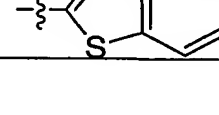
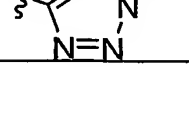


wherein R⁶ is selected from -H, -C₁₋₃alkyl, -C₃₋₆cycloalkyl, -F and -Cl;

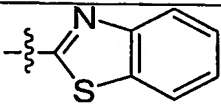
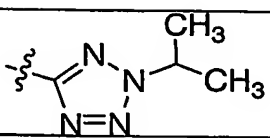
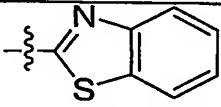
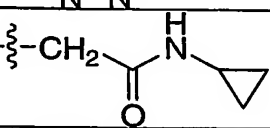
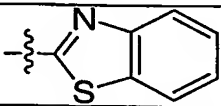
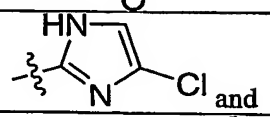
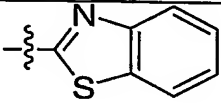
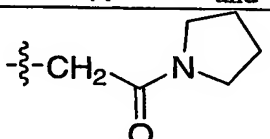
R^a is selected from (a) -C₁₋₄alkyl and C₃₋₆cycloalkyl, each optionally substituted with 1-3 fluoro

groups or a member selected from the group consisting of: -OC₁₋₆alkyl, -CN, -NH₂, -NHC₁₋₄alkyl and -N(C₁₋₄alkyl)₂, (b) Hetcy¹ and (c) pyridinyl; and R^b is -H.

23. The compound of claim 1 selected from the group consisting of:



		
a)		
b)		
c)		
d)		
e)		
f)		
g)		
h)		
i)		
j)		
k)		
l)		

m)		
n)		
o)		
p)		

and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts and solvates thereof.

24. A pharmaceutical composition comprised of a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

5

25. A method for preventing the synthesis, the action, or the release of leukotrienes in a patient which comprises administering to the patient an effective amount of a compound of claim 1.

26. A method for treating a leukotriene-mediated medical condition comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1 to a patient in need of such treatment.

10

27. A method for treating an inflammatory condition comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1 to a patient in need of such treatment.

15

28. A method for treating atherosclerosis comprising administering a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1 to a patient in need of such treatment.

29. The method of claim 28 for halting or slowing atherosclerotic plaque progression.

20

30. The method of claim 28 for effecting regression of atherosclerotic plaque.

31. The method of claim 28 for preventing or reducing the risk of atherosclerotic plaque rupture in a patient having atherosclerotic plaque.

5 32. A method of preventing or reducing the risk for a leukotriene-mediated medical condition comprising administering a prophylactically effective amount of a compound of claim 1 to a patient in need of such treatment.

10 33. A method for preventing or reducing the risk of developing atherosclerosis comprising administering a prophylactically effective amount of a compound of claim 1 to a patient at risk for developing atherosclerosis.

15 34. A method for preventing or reducing the risk of an atherosclerotic disease event comprising administering a prophylactically effective amount of a compound of claim 1 to a patient at risk for having an atherosclerotic disease event.

20 35. The method of treating atherosclerosis of claim 28 further comprising administering to the patient a compound selected from the group consisting of an HMG-CoA reductase inhibitor, cholesterol absorption inhibitor, CETP inhibitor, PPAR γ agonist, PPAR α agonist, PPAR dual α/γ agonist, and combinations thereof.